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CPYRGHT

Kim Philby: The Top British Spy

Who Is Still Out In The Cold

CPYRGHT

The Third Man, by E. H. Cookridge. Putnam's, N.Y. 320 pp., \$5.95.

The Philby Conspiracy, by Bruce Page, David Leitch, and Philip Knightley. Doubleday, N.Y. 300 pp., \$5.95.

By EDWIN McDOWELL

Foreign Secretary Harold Macmillan, usually the very model of British restraint, was genuinely distressed as he faced parliament.

It was bad enough that a Labor MP had implied that spies were operating in the very highest echelons of Her Majesty's government.

But, worse, the alleged spy was none other than Harold Adrian Russell Philby, whose educational and social background placed him squarely within the British Establishment.

"I have no reason to conclude that Mr. Philby has at any time betrayed the interests of his country," asserted Macmillan, who was soon to become prime minister in the Conservative government.

Later at a relaxed press conference which he held in his mother's flat, Philby said that the last time he had knowingly spoken to a Communist was in 1934 — 21 years previously.

YET AT THAT very moment, "Kim" Philby — the Cambridge grad, the consort of beautiful women, confidant of high government officials —



had been a dedicated Soviet agent for 22 years.

Not only that, he had been the No. 3 man in the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) — the man who in 1944 established the special section to deal with Russia, and the man who was sent in 1949 to act as liaison officer with the American CIA.

The full damage Philby did to the free world will never be known.

What is known, however, is that he seriously compromised the CIA, protected a major atomic spy, withheld vast quantities of intelligence about Russia, and — with his fellow British spies, Guy Burgess and David Maclean — reassured Peking that the U.S. would not bomb Manchuria even if Red China intervened in the Korean war.

Philby blew the whistle on the hundreds of Albanians who, taking part in a joint CIA - SIS operation in the spring of 1950, parachuted into their homeland hoping to reclaim their country from the Communists — only to be met and methodically massacred.

And when a Russian named Volkov contacted the British embassy in Turkey, offering to defect and hand over valuable information on Soviet intelligence to agents in the British government, Philby saw that he was removed — feet first in a Russian military airplane.

PHILBY, the perfect ideological spy, was not driven by any of the usual reasons: Alcoholism, homosexuality, a warped childhood, minority status, or a physical deformity. Nor had he visited Russia as a youngster and fallen in love with the Workers' Paradise.

On the contrary, when he made his decision at age 21 to serve Soviet Russia he had never been there and had only a superficial knowledge of communism.

But what he lacked in first hand experience, he made up in zeal.

And when the CIA and FBI warned SIS about Philby, they dismissed him in 1951 . . . but still were not convinced.

Indeed, a senior Foreign Office official, acting for SIS, officially asked the London Observer to send Philby to Beirut as a foreign correspondent.

So off he went to charm the Lebanese community, seduce the wife of a New York Times correspondent, and just generally live life to the fullest.

IN THESE two books — the former by a longtime secret service agent who knew Philby back in his (the author's) Socialist days, the other by three of the 16 Sunday Times reporters who compiled a brilliant group series on Philby — many of the gaps in Philby's espionage career are filled in.

He is shown as the handsome roue who married four times and who seduced the wives of at least two friends. (One wife, avowed Communist Alice Friedman, now lives in East Berlin with her third husband.)

He is also shown as a Com-

munist party member while at Cambridge, and a friend of the crass homosexual Burgess (who before his death in Moscow in 1963 was permitted the companionship of a curly-haired ballet dancer) and the alcoholic homosexual Maclean (who from his post in the British embassy in Washington procured important atomic information for his Kremlin bosses).

ONE NIGHT in January, 1963, Philby — whom Allen Dulles described as "the best spy the Russians ever had" — boarded a Soviet ship in Beirut.

Soon afterward, a government spokesman announced that Philby had defected to Russia, and admitted that he had indeed been the "third man" who tipped off Burgess and Maclean, thereby enabling them to escape to Russia.

Today, Philby — proud possessor of Russia's Order of the Red Banner — lives in Moscow with Melinda Maclean, Donald Maclean's American wife.

He is an important official in the Russian Security and Intelligence Department. Yet he still subscribes to the airmail edition of the London Times — to keep up with the English cricket scores.

"We knew Philby as a colleague . . . and we were completely deceived by him," said a recent London Observer editorial.

To which the top security officials in Britain and the U.S. could add a plaintive, "Amen."

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